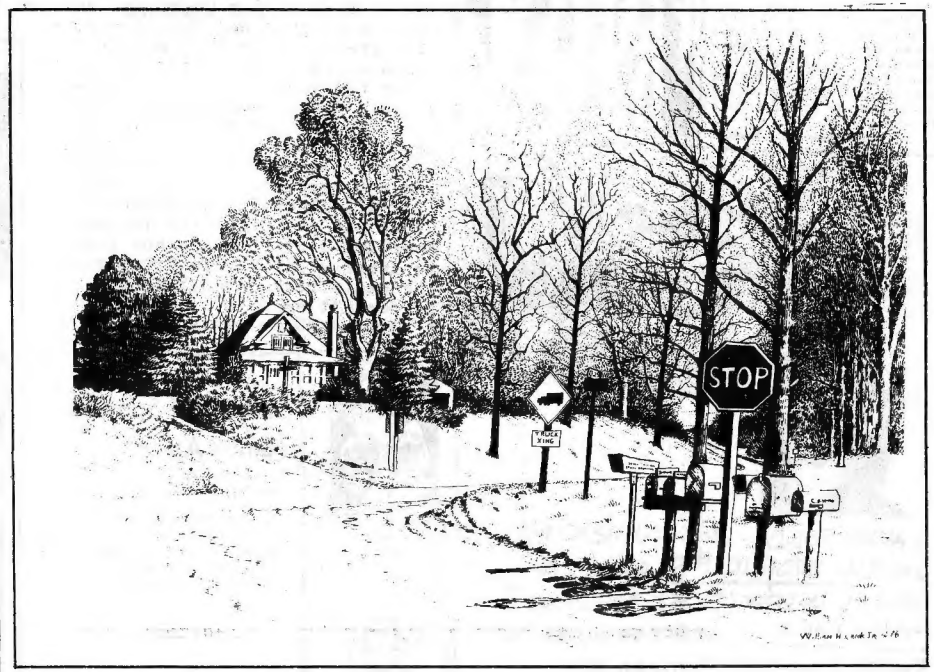
COMIX WORLD 74. June 15, 1977. Copyright Clay Geerdes, 915 Indian Rock Road, Berkeley, CA 94707. Subs: $3.50 for 12, $6 for 24. All back issues $15. Logo by Canadian animator Brad Caslor. Line drawing © William Crook, Jr.* The American Booksellers Association held the biggest book bash in the Bay Area at Brooks Hall May 28-31 and yours truly was there all four days getting the media straight stuff from folks like Lester Del Rey of Ballantine Books and Charles Lippincott of the Star Wars staff. Star Wars became cultic faster than any film in history by throwing out realistic scientific knowledge and tripping on the imaginative possibilities of modern technology. Starlog #7 (180 Madison Avenue, Suite 1503, NYC 10016, $1.50) has the complete story & a lot of stills for those interested in seeing why SW is going to wipe out the vestiges of Star Trek. Kermit Eller of the Don Post Studios in Glendale was on hand wearing the costume of Darth Vader, villain antagonist of the Jedi knight Ben Kenobi in SW. A line of masks from the film is in production. Allan Dean Foster is writing the second SW paperback. It's likely we'll see the costumes at the San Diego Con July 20 (El Cortez Hotel, 7th & Ash). Pat Woolley was at the Australian exhibit. She announced an anthology of Aussie underground comix for September '77, The Wild and Woolley Comic Book. Ron Cobb was autographing copies of his recent book, Cobb Again. I talked to the folks at the Saturday Evening Post and yes, they are buying lots of cartoons, but, she said, "keep 'em clean if you send 'em to us." Well, I know a lot of you readers are doing nice clean panels these days so if you have something you might send it to Betty White, Sat Eve Post, 1100 Waterway Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202. Irving Wallace referred to writing as a "free and independent way of Starving and making a living." Sure is. Chelsea House is coming out with a book on Women in the Comics by Maurice Horn. Wonder if any ug ladies will be mentioned? I only saw a mock-up of the cover, but the drawings of characters like Sheena, Little Lulu, and Orphan Annie were horrible. All of the extant books on Comics have lousy covers. The only one with any style is Rand's cover of the Estren History of Ugs. Why do you think that's so? Tons of print in that room. Avon, Bantam, Signet, NAL, Crown, Holt-Rinehart, Warner Brooks--Ah, Warner's had Mary Martin present to promote her bio My Heart Belongs. At her press conference, she talked about never seeing people when she was a performer and said she was enjoying the promo tour because she got to talk to everyone for the first time. "I found out I'm a talker and a kisser." That line got one woman in the audience who had to have a kiss.

In books and films, people always like to say it only takes one and that's been true for a lot of people like Erich Segal, Francis Coppola, and others. One of the latest people to make it big is Anne Rice who got 3/4 of a mil for her Interview With The Vampire (Ballantine) and has sold movie rights to Paramount. It's her first novel, and she was at the ABA con, telling us the book began as a speculative short story. She asked herself what a supernatural experience would go to a human being & went on to answer the question via the vampire Louis's extended monologue. She says it's a serious book about people and is glad the company is not using any of the cliches to promote it, no bloody teeth or leering vampires; well, I read it and enjoyed it as an experimental novel, but I couldn't take it seriously for various reasons. Ms. Rice writes in the persona of a man, which was traditional for pre-Feminist women writers, but I just don't hear Louis as a man. My own impression as I followed Louis's love-hate relationship with Lestat, the vampire who made him a vampire, and his later love relationship with Armand was that I was reading a gay novel. Louis wants to break with Lestat and Lestat creates a child vampire out of Claudia to prevent a break in their relationship. Once a vampire, the child matures intellectually, but remains forever trapped in a child-body. This is an appropriate symbolic situation & many women will identify with it, particularly those who live with men who expect them to continue to react as children. Whatever my problems with the novel, it's good reading and as a thriller on film it will surpass The Exorcist.* Garson Kanin, whose new book is One Hell of an Actor, spent his press conference talking about mandatory retirement, mentioning names like Eric Severeid who would be forced to retire under companies 65 retirement rules. He said men and women who are forcibly retired have a lifespan of 30-40 months. We saw this concept treated in fiction in Logan's Run where people were terminated at 30. Robert Bloch dealt with retirement in Sneak Preview. Kanin said the Youth Cult came about after WW2 when data computers took over and the demographic heart was found to be 20-25. This age group represented the largest market for goods and services so the ad agencies decided to throw everything into it. It was fashionable to be young and unfashionable to be old. This trend continued. In the sixties, people were saying "never trust anyone over 30," an ironic cliche when we consider that Timothy Leary, Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, Alan Watts, all of the "gurus" who proliferated the psychedelic scene were well over 30. Kanin joked about the movie business where a young director was one the company could hire cheap. This applies to any business. I once applied for a position at the College of San Mateo and the underlying basis for my rejection was that the department could hire two teachers what I would cost them. C.G.



The watch was his talisman against street snatchers. In all the time he had been in Saigon he had been street-snatched only once, although he knew people who were street-snatched as often as twice a week. Almost a year before, he had lost a briefcase to a Korean in a passing jeep, and the Korean had thereby acquired the collected works of Saint-Exupéry and a Zap comic. In Converse's view, the idea of a Korean soldier reading a Zap comic was worth the loss of the case.

Robert Stone in DOG SOLDIERS.

MGM-TV Will Release 'Tom & Jerry' Package

Cat and mouse cartoon team, "Tom & Jerry," will be released by MGM Television for firstrun local station airing beginning next fall, per Robert B. Morin, MGM-TVice-president, syndicated sales.

Cartoon package will include 137 episodes which up to now have been limited only to theatrical release.

Morin said "Tom & Jerry" is the only new group of cartoons available for syndication, with a total of 263 episodes.

Production on the cartoons began in 1937.

Fries, Goodman Produce CBS 'Spider Man' Pilot

Charles Fries Prods., in association with Dan Goodman Prods., plans to produce "Spider Man," a 90-minute pilot for CBS-TV.

The script, written by Alvin Boretz, is based on the character and comic strip created by Stan Lee for Marvel Comics, a division of Cadence Industries.

The film will be produced by Ed Montagne and directed by E. W. Sackhamer, with Fries and Goodman as exec producers. Casting will be handled by Melnick and Holstra. The production will be based at CBS Studio Center.

Goodman's company will be exclusive worldwide distributor of the telepic and series.

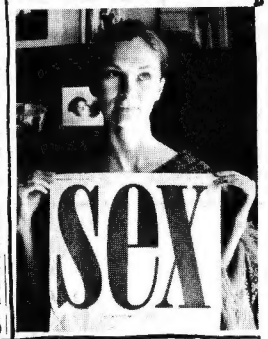
PRICE OF WOMEN'S LIB

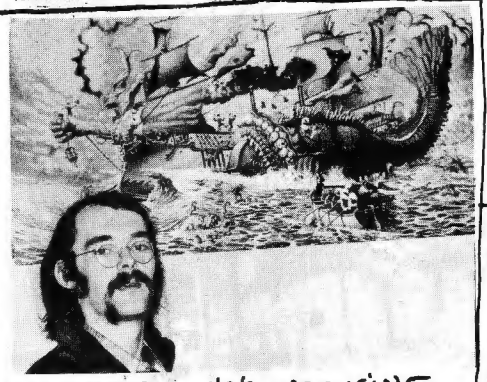
Women's Lib in Britain is having some effects, and some women aren't too happy about it. Like the woman who just had her alimony reduced to almost nothing by a judge who believes in liberated women.

The woman had been married for only five months when her husband left her, and the magistrate who granted the divorce set her alimony payments at $8 a week — which may not be much in the U.S., but is considered a reasonable payment in Britain.

However, last week a High Court judge decided to reduce the amount she was entitled to to only 25 cents a week. Said the judge, "In these days of women's lib there is no reason why a wife, whose marriage has not lasted long and has no child, should have a bread ticket for life."

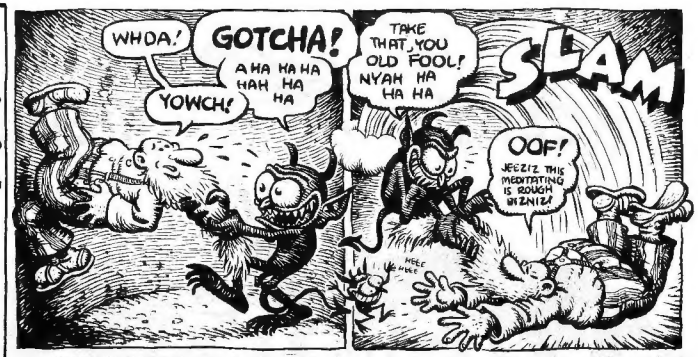
(Slithy Toves News. Lund. Sweden)





LARRY TODD. HE'S WORKING ON DR. ATOMIC #5 AND A STORY INSPIRED BY MELVILLE'S MOBY DICK. LARRY WILL BE AT SANDIEGO CON July 20-24.

Nice friendly gathering at the Good Times House June 4 for the opening of AMAZE, the kid-level art show. Mostly adult-level subject matter, it was mounted on a maze just off the floor. Art by Guy Colwell, Vincent Bode, Toby Klayman, Karl Ardo, Joyce Farmer (who came up from Laguna Beach for the opener), Melinda Gebbie (who wore her hat and boots), Michelle Jurras, Katie Krick, Cheryl Chester, Heather Green, Susan Cervantes, Jim Lind, Sharon Skolnick, Annette Randell, Peter Claudius, Wendy Bartlett, Lou Silva and Marva Cremer. Guy and Sally Harms ran the show.* A nice illo by Gary Hallgren in July's HUSTLER (pp 36-7). Gary's been doing a lot of those full-page color gags in Cheri, High Society, & Hustler lately.* Pogo: The Okefenokee Star is out and it's lovely. A lot of unpublished Pogo strips and reprinted news articles and pictures re Kelly and his work. It's $4 pp from Don Phelps, Box 85, Cohasset, MA 02025. Only 3,500 first run so you'd better get on it fast. Editor is Bill Crouch Jr and your comments go to him at Swamp Yankee Studios, P. O. Box 2311, Bridgeport, CT 06608.* John Wilcock, longtime ug press publisher and writer, brought out the first issue of COVER ONE for the book con and inside is Denis Kitchen's "The Birth of Comix Book," a one-pager. Address is 305 East 72nd St. NYC 10021. $11 a year. Wilcock's wit and quality. A dollar for that one issue.* If you're near Redwood City, check out Barney Steel's Bar and Grille. It's owned by Barney's brother Mike who named it after the Armageddon artist. #4 will be about 80 pages long, b/w with color covers and he may, he says, go hardback on this one.* RACKET RUMBA by Loro is $3.50 pp from Last Gasp, P. O. Box 212, Berkeley, CA. Eisner-style hard-boiled detection for those who dig tits and mayhem.* Think MR. NATURAL will remain in the nuthouse? I don't, in spite of the pessimism inherrent in MR. NATURAL #3 (Krupp, $1.35 pp, P. O. Bx 7, Princeton, Wis. 54968, on book paper.). If you missed the serial which ran first in the Village Voice, then in Bay Guardian, you can read it all now and do your own Crumbanalysis. It's pretty clear that old Prof. Wanowski is speaking for Crumb since his final words to the two Village Voice reporters are almost the same as his own in the letter he sent PUNK Magazine #7. Someone asked me if I liked #3. The art, yes; the content, no. It's all didactic, as though R. Crumb was giving us the message over and over; bitter, not funny. No compassion. While Crumb makes the mediafreaks obnoxious villains he doesn't seem to realize that a comic book is media and he's a

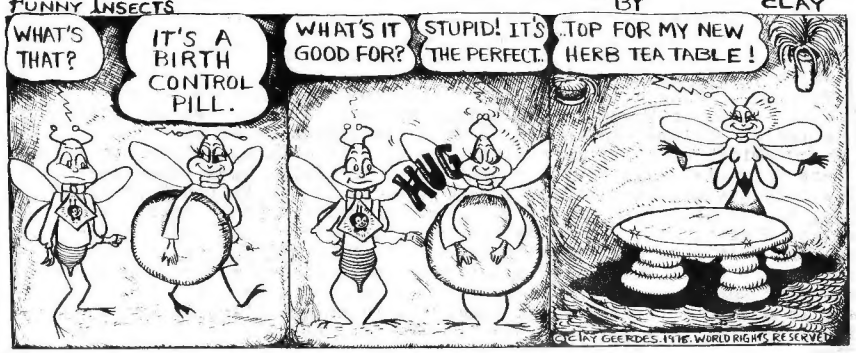


GUYS LIKE YOU BUZZING ALL OVER THE LAND IN YOUR NOISY MACHINES LOOKING FOR THE LATEST HYPE TO CASH IN ON SO AS TO SUPPORT YOUR SWINGING "LIFE-STYLE" WHICH IS KILLING THIS PLANET WE ALL HAVE TO LIVE ON!!
OH THE SHAME OF IT! TO THINK! THE LAST VESTIGES OF WILDERNESS BEING RAPIDLY DEVOURED JUST TO KEEP CHURNING OUT TONS OF USELESS PUBLICATIONS FILLED WITH HALF-BAKED CLAP-TRAP SLAPPED TOGETHER BY SHLOCK-CREWS THE LIKES OF YOU TWO! OH THE SHAME!!
OH MAN!
SO LONG, FINKS!!

(FROM MR. NATURAL NO.3 © R. CRUMB, 1977.)

mediafreak himself. On the back cover, Crumb contrasts himself with a programmed character who has pat answers but no feeling. "It's America that needs to be changed, not me!!" Be interesting to survey you readers to see how many agree with Crumb and how many agree with his opposite.

CONCHY
by JAMES CHILDRESS
I AM A COMIC STRIP CHARACTER IN THE DARK OF NIGHT.
WHEN A COMIC STRIP CHARACTER FINDS HIMSELF IN THE DARK OF NIGHT, NOTHING IS SEEN OF HIM BUT HIS DIALOGUE --- THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS POSITION TO BE IN.
IF WE LOSE OUR CHAIN OF THOUGHT FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, WE CEASE TO EXIST.


FUNNY INSECTS
BY CLAY
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A BIRTH CONTROL PILL.
WHAT'S IT GOOD FOR?
STUPID! IT'S THE PERFECT TOP FOR MY NEW HERB TEA TABLE!
HUG
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Editor of Spanish Daily Arrested

Madrid

The editor of the liberal Spanish daily El Pais, Juan Luis Cebrian, yesterday faced a possible sentence of six months in jail for publishing an article on birth control methods.

Reuters